

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 /071 W

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R 161030Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1319

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN SHOE INDUSTRY REACTION TO INTERNATIONAL
TRADE COMMISSION DECISION ON SHOE IMPORTS

1. AUTHORITAVE SOURCE IN ITALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SHOE MANUFACTURERS INDICATED TO CONSULATE OFFICER THAT ASSOCIATION HAS ALREADY MADE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR EVENTUAL DECISION BY PRESIDENT ON VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (ICT). IF OPTION ONE (TO PLACE ADDITIONAL DUTY ON ALL IMPORTED SHOES) IS ADOPTED, INDUSTRY FEELS SHOES WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY PRICED OUT OF U.S. MARKET BECAUSE OF HIGH PRICE OF ITALIAN SHOES TO BEGIN WITH. COUNTRIES LIKE BRAZIL AND TAIWAN, ASSOCIATION FEELS, COULD SUSTAIN INCREASED TARIFF.

2. IF OPTION ONE TAKEN, ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAS ALREADY DISCUSSED MATTER WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS, FEELS THAT BEST ACTION WOULD BE TO TAKE MATTER TO BRUSSELS FOR EEC ACTION. SOURCE INDICATED THAT HE WAS GOING TO BRUSSELS TO MEET WITH THE EEC

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COMMITTEE FOR FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS MATTER. HE FEELS

LIKELY EEC ACTION WILL BE TO TAKE RECIPROCAL ACTION AGAINST SOME U.S. PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO EUROPE. AT SAME TIME EEC WILL HAVE TO TAKE SOME MEASURES TO CUSHION BLOW ON DOMESTIC EUROPEAN PRODUCERS.

3. SECOND OPTION (WHICH WOULD INCREASE DUTY ON IMPORTED SHOES EXCEEDING QUANTITY PREVIOUSLY IMPORTED ON COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BASIS) WOULD HIT HARDEST AT COUNTRIES NEW TO MARKET AND WOULD, IN A SENSE, FAVOR ITALY, WHOSE EXPORTS TO THE U.S. HAVE BEEN DECLINING SOMEWHAT. IF THIS OPTION CHOSEN, SHOE MANUFACTURERS WOULD EXPECT A FORMAL PROTEST WOULD BE MADE BY EEC BUT NO RETALIATION WOULD BE TAKEN.

4. THIRD OPTION (TO HELP AMERICAN INDUSTRIES ADJUST) WOULD NOT CONCERN EEC DIRECTLY AT ALL.

5. SOURCE INDICATED THAT ITALIANS ARE HOPEFUL THAT U.S. WILL NOT TAKE FIRST OPTION. HE NOTED THAT IF U.S. DID, THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS IN ITALY WITH MANY SMALLER MANUFACTURERS FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS. GORDON

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